

4.0 OTHER MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN

4.1 CSLC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

Environmental justice is defined by California law as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies” (Senate Bill 115 [Chapter 690, Statutes of 1999]). This definition is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine principle that the management of trust lands is for the benefit of all of the people. The CSLC adopted an environmental justice policy in October 2002 to ensure that environmental justice is an essential consideration in the agency’s processes, decisions, and programs. Through its policy, CSLC reaffirms its commitment to an informed and open process in which all people are treated equitably and with dignity, and in which its decisions are tempered by environmental justice considerations.

As part of the CSLC environmental justice policy, the CSLC pledges to continue and enhance its processes, decisions, and programs with environmental justice as an essential consideration by:

- 1) Identifying relevant populations that might be adversely affected by CSLC programs or by projects submitted by outside parties for its consideration.
- 2) Seeking out community groups and leaders to encourage communication and collaboration with the CSLC and its staff.
- 3) Distributing public information as broadly as possible and in multiple languages, as needed, to encourage participation in the CSLC’s public processes.
- 4) Incorporating consultations with affected community groups and leaders while preparing environmental analyses of projects submitted to the CSLC for its consideration.
- 5) Ensuring that public documents and notices relating to human health or environmental issues are concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the public, in multiple languages, as needed.
- 6) Holding public meetings, public hearings, and public workshops at times and in locations that encourage meaningful public involvement by members of the affected communities.
- 7) Educating present and future generations in all walks of life about public access to lands and resources managed by the CSLC.
- 8) Ensuring that a range of reasonable alternatives is identified when siting facilities that may adversely affect relevant populations and identifying, for the CSLC’s consideration, those that would minimize or eliminate environmental impacts affecting such populations.

9) Working in conjunction with federal, State, regional, and local agencies to ensure consideration of disproportionate impacts on relevant populations, by instant or cumulative environmental pollution or degradation.

10)Fostering research and data collection to better define cumulative sources of pollution, exposures, risks, and impacts.

11)Providing appropriate training on environmental justice issues to staff and the CSLC so that recognition and consideration of such issues are incorporated into its daily activities.

12)Reporting periodically to the CSLC on how environmental justice is a part of the programs, processes, and activities conducted by the CSLC and by proposing modifications as necessary.

4.1.1 Methodology

The CSLC environmental justice policy does not specify a methodology for conducting programmatic-level analysis of environmental justice issues. This analysis focuses primarily on whether the Project's impacts have the potential to affect areas of high-minority populations and/or low-income communities disproportionately and thus would create an adverse environmental justice effect. For the purpose of the environmental analysis, the Project's inconsistency with the CSLC's Environmental Justice Policy would occur if the Project would: (1) have the potential to disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations adversely; or (2) result in a substantial, disproportionate decrease in employment and economic base of minority and/or low-income populations residing in immediately adjacent communities.

4.1.2 Project Analysis

Communities of Concern Identified within the Project Study Area. A review of the ACS 2013 1-year U.S. Census data revealed that 82 percent of the Imperial County population is of Hispanic or Latino origins (Census Reporter 2015). The second largest demographic population was White at 12.7 percent. Black, Native, Asian, Islander, and other races were identified less than 5 percent of Imperial County population (Census Reporter 2015). Based on the observed individuals at the Salvation Mountain and East Jesus sites, the U.S. Census data does not reflect the same numerical percentage of racial composition. The people observed at the site all appear to be White.

The Project will not have the potential to disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations adversely; or result in a substantial, disproportionate decrease in employment and economic base of minority and/or low-income populations residing in immediately adjacent communities. Therefore, no impact is expected.